



(11) EP 0 933 908 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent:12.01.2005 Bulletin 2005/02

(51) Int CI.7: **H04M 1/02**, G06F 3/02, H04M 1/23

(21) Application number: 99660006.0

(22) Date of filing: 15.01.1999

(54) Portable and foldable electronic apparatus

Tragbares und klappbares elektronisches Gerät Appareil électronique pliable portatif

(84) Designated Contracting States: **DE FR GB NL**

(30) Priority: 29.01.1998 FI 980199

(43) Date of publication of application: 04.08.1999 Bulletin 1999/31

(60) Divisional application: 04026069.7

(73) Proprietor: Nokia Corporation 02150 Espoo (FI)

(72) Inventors:

Sirola, Jukka
 33580 Tampere (FI)

Berry, Onni
 33720 Tampere (FI)

 (74) Representative: Johansson, Folke Anders et al Nokia Corporation,
 P.O. Box 226
 00045 Nokia Group (FI)

(56) References cited:

EP-A- 0 534 478 EP-A- 0 804 009 EP-A- 0 796 026

WO-A-97/12470

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).



10

35

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to portable electronic apparatus and in particular, though not necessarily, to portable electronic communication apparatus.

[0002] Many different types of portable electronic devices are currently available which use a small display screen, e.g. a liquid crystal display, and a keyboard for entering data into the device. Examples of such devices include pocket calculators, personal digital assistants (PDA), and cellular telephones. More recently, a new type of device has become available which combines the functions of a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant. Particularly in the case of the latter type of device, there is a strong desire to reduce the overall size of the device in order to allow it to be more easily carried by a user.

[0003] EP 0534478 describes a portable telephone set including an electronic notebook function, i.e. of the combined cellular telephone/PDA type. The device has a body portion on which a number of electronic notebook keys are provided. A lid is hingeably connected to the body portion, the lid having telephone keys provided on both its inner and outer surfaces. When the lid is closed over the body portion, the notebook keys are covered by the lid and only the telephone keys provided on the outer surface of the lid are accessible. When the lid is open, both the telephone keys on the lid's inner surface and the notebook keys are accessible. The body portion is provided with an elongate display which is visible both when the lid is closed and when it is open.

[0004] EP 0472361 describes a similar type of portable device having a body portion on which are provided a number of notebook keys and a display screen. A lid portion is hingeably connected to the body portion and when the lid is in the closed position the lid partially covers the display. On the outer surface of the lid there are provided a number of telephone keys which allow a user to make a telephone call when the lid is closed. A number of additional notebook keys are provided on the inner surface of the lid.

[0005] According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided electronic apparatus comprising:

a body portion;

a lid hingeably coupled to the body portion and moveable about a hinged joint between open and closed positions in which a surface portion of the body portion is respectively uncovered and covered by the lid:

a first plurality of data input keys on said surface portion of the body portion;

a second plurality of data input keys on an inner surface of the lid:

a third plurality of data Input keys on an outer surface of the lid;

an electronic display on a surface of the body portlon, the display being visible to a user when the lid is in sald open and closed positions; and display control means for displaying information on the display with a first orientation when the lid is in the open position and with a second orientation, substantially at right angles to said first orientation, when the lid is in the closed position.

[0006] Embodiments of the present invention may be arranged such that the display is suitably oriented both when the apparatus is used with the lid closed (e.g. with only a reduced keypad accessible) and when it is used with the lid open (e.g. with an extended keypad accessible).

[0007] Preferably, said body portion of the electronic apparatus is elongate, with sald electronic display being provided at a first end region of the body portion and said lid being hingeably coupled to a second end region, opposite to said first end region, of the body portion. Preferably, said hinged joint is arranged to enable the lid to be moveable about an axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body portion. More preferably, said display and said first plurality of keys are arranged on the same surface of the body portion.

[0008] Preferably, when the lid is in the open position, said first and second plurality of data input keys are arranged so as to provide in combination a QWERTY style keyboard (or equivalent).

[0009] The electronic apparatus of the present invention may be a mobile communication device. For example, the device may be arranged to remotely activate a radio telephone unit. With the lid of the device in the closed position, sald third plurality of keys may act as control keys for the radio telephone unit. More particularly, the third plurality of keys may provide numeric and other telephone dialling keys for controlling the operation of the radio telephone unit. The device may additionally operate as a personal digital assistant or portable computer, with said first and second plurality of data input keys enabling a user to input data into the PDA or PC, or Into a memory of the radio telephone unit.

[0010] The electronic apparatus of the present invention may also function as a radio telephone without requiring any additional units. In this case, the third plurality of keys provide numeric and other dialling keys for operating the device as a radio telephone. Again, the device may additionally operate as a PDA or PC into which data is entered using the first and second plurality of data input keys.

[0011] Embodiments of the present invention also include for example personal digital assistants, palm-top computers, and pocket calculators.

[0012] According to an embodiment of the present invention there is provided an electronic apparatus comprising lid position detection means for detecting whether the lid is in said open or said closed position and for indicating a choice between a first typing mode and a second typing mode, and a first plurality of function keys,



10

20



each implementing a first key function in the first typing mode and a second key function in the second typing mode.

[0013] According to a second aspect of the present Invention there is provided a method of displaying information on an electronic display provided on a body portion of an electronic apparatus, the device comprising a first plurality of data input keys provided on a surface of said body surface, a lid hingeably coupled to the body portion and arranged to cover said first plurality of data input keys in a closed position and having a second plurality of data input keys on an inner surface thereof and a third plurality of keys on an outer surface thereof, wherein the display is visible in both the open and closed positions of the lid, the method comprising displaying information on the display with a first orientation when the lid is in the closed position and displaying information with a second orientation, substantially at right angles to said first orientation, when the lid is in the open position.

[0014] For a better understanding of the present invention and in order to show how the same may be carried into effect reference will now be made, by a way of example, to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of a mobile communication device with a lid of the device in a closed position:

Figure 2 shows the mobile communication device of Figure 1 with the lid in an open position;

Figure 3 is a rear perspective view of the device of Figure 1 with the lid in the open position;

Figure 4 shows in block diagram form control and display circultry of the device of Figures 1 to 3.

[0015] Figures 1 to 3 show various views of a mobile communication device 1 which is arranged to provide a user interface of a cellular radio telephone. The device 1 communicates via a short range radio link with a radio unit (not shown in the drawings) which in turn provides the radio link to the cellular telephone network. Such a system may be employed in a vehicle where the radio unit is built into the dashboard of the vehicle and the communication device 1 is releasably held in a dashboard mounted cradle.

[0016] The communication device 1 comprises a main body 2 which houses most of the electronic circuitry for controlling the device 1 together with a power supply battery. The body 2 is generally rectangular in cross section and is provided on a rear surface thereof with a microphone 3 and a loudspeaker 4. The loudspeaker 4 and microphone 3 are spaced apart sufficiently to enable a user to speak into the microphone 3 whilst listening to sound emanating from the loudspeaker 4.

[0017] On a front surface 5 of the body 2 there is provided a generally square liquid crystal display 6. This display 6 is able to display text information in either of two different orientations as will be explained below. A

Ild or flip 7 having a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape is hingeably coupled to a lower edge region of the body 2 by a hinge 8 such that the lid 7 can be rotated about a hinge axis which is perpendicular to the longitudinal axes of the lid 7 and the body 2. The main body 2 is provided with a recess 9 in its upper surface such that when the lid 7 is closed over the body 2 the outer surfaces of the body 2 and the lid 7 are flush with one another leaving the display 6 visible at the upper end of the body 2.

[0018] The outer surface of the lid 7 is provided with a set of numeric keys and telephone dialling control keys 10 including "off-hook", "on-hook", control keys and memory recall keys (collectively termed the "telephone keypad"). It will be apparent that with the lid 7 in the closed position, the device 1 has a configuration similar to that of a conventional cellular telephone and a user is able to make and receive calls, via the radio unit, using the telephone keypad 10.

[0019] The lid 7 is provided on its inner surface with a set of data entry keys 11 a which are accessible to the user when the lid 7 is in the open position. In this open position, a set of data entry keys 11 b, provided in the recess 9 of the body 2, are also accessible. The two sets of data entry keys 11 a, 11 b together form an elongate "extended" keyboard, e.g. with a QWERTY style layout, which may be used to enter data into the device 1 when the device is operating as a personal digital assistant.

[0020] Considering now in more detail the display 6, this is controlled when the lid 7 is in the closed position to display llnes of text perpendicularly to the longitudinal access of the device 1 (as illustrated in Figure 1). In this way, text is displayed in the manner in which it would be displayed on a conventional cellular telephone and facilitates easy use of the device by a user who is familiar with using a cellular telephone.

[0021] With reference now to Figure 2, with the lid 7 In the open position, the display 6 is controlled to display lines of text parallel to the longitudinal access of the device 1. Thus, a user is able to enter data using the extended keyboard 11a, 11b in a normal orientation (and for example using two-hands) whilst viewing entered or retrieved information on the display 6. The user does not need to turn his head to an awkward angle or to be able to read lines of text at right angles.

[0022] Circuitry for controlling the orientation of the device display 6 is shown in block diagram form in Figure 4 (the arrow shown inside the display 6 in Figure 4 Indicates the longitudinal axis of the communication device 1). A microprocessor 13 of the circuitry performs a variety of functions including audio processing of signals received from the microphone 3 and transmitted to the loudspeaker 4, RF control via lines 19, and general data processing operations. However, as these are substantially conventional, only the role of the microprocessor in controlling the display will be described here.

[0023] The circuitry comprises a mechanical switch 12 contained in the hinge 8 for detecting whether the IId

45





7 is In the open or the closed position. With the lid 7 in the closed position, the switch 12 connects an interrupt of the microprocessor 13 to a logic low level (GND). With the lid 7 in the open position, the microprocessor interrupt ls connected by the switch 12 to a logic high level (+ V_{cc}). Software controls the microcontroller to provide a horizontal-vertical mode controller 14 which receives the signal placed on the microprocessor interrupt via the switch 12. Software also causes the microprocessor 13 to provide a display controller 15 and a keyboard controller 16, both controlled in turn by the horizontal-vertical mode controller 14. The telephone keys 10 and the extended keyboard 11a, 11b are connected to the mi-

[0024] The circuitry further comprises first and second display drivers 17,18 which drive respective perpendicular sets of display lines of the LCD display 6. The display drivers 17,18 are connected to the microprocessor 13 and functionally to the display controller 15.

croprocessor 13 and functionally to the keyboard con-

troller 16.

[0025] With the lid 7 closed, the interrupt is set to logic low and the horizontal-vertical mode controller 14 controls the keyboard controller 16 to activate the telephone keypad 10 and to deactivate the extended keyboard 11a, 11b. The horizontal-vertical mode controller 14 also controls the display controller 15 to operate the display driver 17 as a horizontal line driver and the display driver 18 as a vertical line driver. The result is that data received from the telephone keypad, or recalled from a memory of the device (not shown), is displayed in lines which are perpendicular to the longitudinal access to the device 1.

[0026] With the lid 7 open, mlcrocontroller Interrupt is at logic high. The horizontal-vertical mode controller 14 causes the keyboard controller 16 to inactivate the telephone keypad 10 and to activate the extended keyboard 11a, 11b. The horizontal-vertical mode controller 14 also controls the display controller 15 to select display driver 17 as a vertical display driver and the display driver 18 as a horizontal display driver. Data received from the extended keyboard, or recalled from memory, is therefore displayed In lines which are parallel to the longitudinal access of the device 1.

[0027] In another aspect of the invention, a set of keys act as keys of a telephone keypad and keys of an alphanumeric keypad, depending on the typing mode set by the user. Referring to Figure 5, a first set of function keys 20 in the extended keyboard 11 b provided In the recess of the body 2 are arranged to act as a telephone keypad, when the device is used in a first typing mode, e.g. in a conventional cellular telephone mode. In this mode lines of text in the display 6 are displayed perpendicularly to the longitudinal access of the device 1. In a second typing mode, the same first set of function keys 20 will operate in a different orientation normally as part of the alphanumeric (e.q. QWERTY style layout) data entry keys 11 b. In this mode the display 6 is controlled to display lines of text parallel to the longitudinal access of

the device 1. Thus, the user is able to operate the device as a mobile terminal using the set of function keys 20 in a perpendicular orientation and viewing information in the display 6 using the same orientation. Correspondingly the user is able to enter data using the extended keyboard 11a, 11b in a parallel orientation whilst viewing information in the display 6 using the same parallel orientation.

6

[0028] The user can select the typing mode by entering a command through the user interface e.g. by pressing a specific key 21 assigned for such an indication, or by choosing an appropriate menu option in the user interface software. A user-operable switch corresponding to the operation of the automatic lid position switch 12 in the aspect of the invention can be arranged to the device for indicating the choice between typing modes. The selection of the user will generate a signal to the horizontal -vertical mode controller 14, which in turn will control the display controller 15 and the keyboard controller 16 according to the selection.

[0029] When a lid hingeably coupled to the body portion of the device is used, the set of function keys 20 is preferably on the part of the extended keyboard 11b provided in the recess of the body 2, as shown in Figure 5. When a lid slidingly coupled to the body portion of the device is used, the set of function keys 20 is preferably on the outer surface of the lid and the extended keyboard will comprise the keys in the outer surface of the lid and the keys 11 b in the recess of the body that are exposed when the lid is slided in the open position. With a sliding coupling, the automatic choice of the typing mode according to the lid position, as explained earlier, can be used.

[0030] It will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that modifications may be made to the above described embodiment without departing from the scope of the present invention.

40 Claims

45

Electronic apparatus comprising:

a body portion (2);
a lid (7) hingeably coupled to the body portion
(2) and moveable about a hinged joint (8) between open and closed positions in which a surface portion of the body portion (2) is respectively uncovered and covered by the lid;
a first plurality of data input keys (11b) on said
surface portion of the body portion (2);
a second plurality of data input keys (11a) on
an Inner surface of the lid (7);
a third plurality of data input keys (10) on an
outer surface of the lid (7);
an electronic display (6) on a surface of the
body portion (2), the display (6) being visible to
a user when the lid (7) is in said open and



5

15

35

40

45

50

closed positions;

characterized in that the apparatus further comprises

display control means for displaying information on the display (6) with a first orientation when the lid (7) is in the open position and with a second orientation, substantially at right angles to said first orientation, when the lid (7) is in the closed position.

- Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the electronic display (6) is provided at a first end region of the body portion (2) and said lid (7) is hingeably coupled to a second end region, opposite to said first end region, of the body portion (2).
- 3. Apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that said hinged joint (8) is arranged to enable the lid (7) to be moveable about an axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body portion (2).
- Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that said display (6) and said first plurality of keys (11b) are arranged on the same surface of the body portion (2).
- 5. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, when the lid (7) is in the open position, said first and second plurality of data input keys (11a, 11b) are arranged to provide in combination a QWERTY style keyboard.
- Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the apparatus is a combined mobile communication device and personal digital assistant.
- 7. Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized In that the electronic apparatus comprises:

lid position detection means (12) for detecting whether the lid is in said open or said closed position and for indicating a choice between a first typing mode and a second typing mode; and

a first plurality of function keys (20), each implementing a first key function in the first typing mode and a second key function in the second typing mode.

- 8. Apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that the electronic display is provided at a first end region of the body portion.
- 9. Apparatus according any of claims 1, 7 or 8, char-

acterized in that the hinged joint is arranged to enable the lid to be moveable about an axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body portion.

10. A method of displaying information on an electronic display provided on a body portion of an electronic apparatus, the device comprising a first plurality of data input keys provided on a surface of said body surface, a lid hingeably coupled to the body portion and arranged to cover said first plurality of data input keys in a closed position and having a second plurality of data input keys on an inner surface thereof and a third plurality of keys on an outer surface thereof, wherein the display is visible in both the open and closed positions of the lid, characterized in that the method comprises displaying information on the display with a first orientation when the lld is in the closed position and displaying information with a second orientation, substantially at right angles to said first orientation, when the lid is in the open position.

Patentansprüche

 Elektronisches Gerät, umfassend einen Körperabschnitt (2);

einen Deckel (7), der schwenkbar mit dem Körperabschnitt (2) gekoppelt ist und um eln Schamiergelenk (8) zwischen einer offenen und einer geschlossenen Stellung beweglich ist, in denen ein Oberflächenabschnitt des Körperabschnitts (2) freigelegt bzw. abgedeckt lst;

eine erste Vielzahl von Dateneingabetasten (11b) am Oberflächenabschnitt des Körperabschnitts (2); eine zweite Vielzahl von Dateneingabetasten (11a) an einer inneren Oberfläche des Deckels (7); eine dritte Vielzahl von Dateneingabetasten (10) an einer äußeren Oberfläche des Deckels (7); eine elektronische Anzeige (6) an einer Oberfläche des Körperabschnitts (2), wobei die Anzeige (6) für einen Benutzer sichtbar ist, wenn sich der Deckel (7) in der offenen und in der geschlossenen Stellung befindet;

dadurch gekennzelchnet, daß das Gerät ferner Folgendes umfaßt:

ein Anzeigesteuermittel, um Informationen an der Anzeige (6) mit einer ersten Ausrichtung anzuzeigen, wenn sich der Deckel (7) in der offenen Stellung befindet, und mit einer im Wesentlichen rechtwinkelig zur ersten Ausrichtung liegenden zweiten Ausrichtung anzuzeigen, wenn sich der Deckel (7) in der geschlossenen Stellung befindet.

2. Gerät nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet,



10

EP 0 933 908 B1

10

15

20

30

35

40

45

daß die elektronische Anzeige (6) an einem ersten Endbereich des Körperabschnitts (2) bereitgestellt ist und der Deckel (7) schwenkbar mit einem dem ersten Endbereich gegenüberliegenden zweiten Endbereich des Körperabschnitts (2) gekoppelt Ist.

- 3. Gerät nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet. daß das Scharniergelenk (8) so angeordnet ist, daß es dem Deckel (7) eine Bewegungsmöglichkeit um eine Achse ermöglicht, die im Wesentlichen senkrecht zur Längsachse des langgestreckten Körperabschnitts (2) verläuft.
- 4. Gerät nach Anspruch 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Anzeige (6) und die erste Vielzahl von Tasten (11b) an der gleichen Oberfläche des Körperabschnitts (2) angeordnet sind.
- 5. Gerät nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die erste und die zweite Vielzahl von Tasten (11a, 11b) dann, wenn sich der Deckel (7) in der offenen Stellung befindet, so angeordnet sind, daß sie zusammen eine Tastatur des Typs QWERTY bereitstellen.
- 6. Gerät nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche. dadurch gekennzelchnet, daß das Gerät eine Kombination aus Mobilkommunikationsvorrichtung und PDA (personal digital assistant) lst.
- 7. Gerät nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das elektronische Gerät Folgendes umfaßt:

ein Deckelstellungsfeststellmittel (12), um festzustellen, ob sich der Deckel in der offenen oder in der geschlossenen Stellung befindet. und um eine Auswahl zwischen einem ersten Tippmodus und einem zweiten Tippmodus anzugeben; und

eine erste Vielzahl von Funktionstasten (20). von denen jede im ersten Tippmodus eine erste Tastenfunktion und im zweiten Tippmodus eine zweite Tastenfunktion ausführt.

- 8. Gerät nach Anspruch 7, dadurch gekennzelchnet, daß die elektronische Anzeige an einem ersten Endbereich des Körperabschnitts bereitgestellt ist.
- 9. Gerät nach einem der Ansprüche 1, 7 oder 8, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Scharniergelenk so angeordnet ist, daß es dem Deckel eine Bewegungsmöglichkeit um eine Achse ermöglicht, die Im Wesentlichen senkrecht zur Längsachse des langgestreckten Körperabschnitts verläuft.
- 10. Verfahren zum Anzeigen von Informationen an einer elektronischen Anzeige, die an einem Körper-

abschnitt eines elektronischen Geräts bereitgestellt lst, wobei die Vorrichtung Folgendes umfaßt: eine erste. Vielzahl von Dateneingabetasten, die an einer Oberfläche der Körperoberfläche bereitgestellt sind, einen Deckel, der schwenkbar mit dem Körperabschnitt gekoppelt ist und so angeordnet ist. daß er in einer geschlossenen Stellung die erste Vielzahl von Dateneingabetasten abdeckt, und der an einer inneren Oberfläche davon eine zweite Vielzahl von Dateneingabetasten und an einer äußeren Oberfläche davon eine dritte Vielzahl von Dateneingabetasten aufweist, wobei die Anzeige sowohl in der offenen als auch in der geschlossenen Stellung des Deckels sichtbar ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Verfahren das Anzeigen von Informationen an der Anzeige mit einer ersten Ausrichtung, wenn sich der Deckel in der geschlossenen Stellung befindet, und das Anzeigen von Informationen mit einer Im Wesentlichen rechtwinkelig zur ersten Ausrichtung liegenden zweiten Ausrichtung, wenn sich der Decke! in der offenen Stellung befindet, umfaßt.

Revendications

Appareil électronique comprenant :

une partie de corps (2);

un couvercle (7) couplé, de manière rabattable, à la partie de corps (2) et mobile autour d'une jointure à charnlères (8) entre les positions ouverte et fermée, dans lequel une partie de surface de la partie de corps (2) est respectivement découverte et recouverte par le couvercle;

une première pluralité de touches d'entrée de données (11b) sur ladite partie de surface de la partie de corps (2);

une seconde pluralité de touches d'entrée de données (11a) sur une surface interne du couvercle (7);

une troisième pluralité de touches d'entrée de données (10) sur une surface externe du couvercle (7);

un écran électronique (6) sur une surface de la partie de corps (2), l'affichage (6) étant visible pour un utilisateur lorsque le couvercle (7) est dans lesdites positions ouverte et fermée ;

caractérisé en ce que l'appareil comprend en outre

un moyen de commande d'écran pour afficher

55



20

25

30

08 B1

les informations sur l'écran (6) avec une première orientation lorsque le couvercle (7) est dans la position ouverte et avec une seconde orientation, substantiellement selon des angles droits par rapport à ladite première orientation, lorsque le couvercle (7) est dans la position fermée.

- Appareil selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que l'écran électronique (6) est prévu à une première région d'extrémité de la partie de corps (2) et ledit couvercle (7) est, de manière rabattable, couplé à une seconde région d'extrémité, opposée à ladite première région, de la partie de corps (2).
- Appareil selon la revendication 2, caractérisé en ce que ladite jointure à charnières (8) est arrangée pour permettre au couvercle (8) d'être mobile autour d'un axe substantiellement perpendiculaire à l'axe longitudinal de la partie de corps allongée (2).
- Appareil selon la revendication 3, caractérisé en ce que ledit écran (6) et ladite première pluralité de touches (11b) sont arrangés sur la même surface de la partie de corps (2).
- 5. Appareil selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, caractérisé en ce que, lorsque le couvercle (7) est dans la position ouverte, ladite première et ladite seconde pluralité de touches d'entrée de données (11a, 11b) sont arrangées pour fournir en combinaison un clavier du style QWER-TY.
- 6. Appareil selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, caractérisé en ce que l'appareil est un dispositif de communication mobile et un assistant numérique personnel combinés.
- Appareil selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en 40 ce que l'appareil électronique comprend :

un moyen de détection de position de couvercle (12) pour détecter si le couvercle est dans ladite position ouverte ou dans ladite position fermée et pour indiquer un choix entre un premier mode de frappe et un second mode de frappe; et

une première pluralité de touches de fonction (20), chacune mettant en oeuvre une première fonction de touche dans le premier mode de frappe et une seconde fonction de touche dans le second mode de frappe.

 Appareil selon la revendication 7, caractérisé en ce que l'écran électronique est prévu à une première région d'extrémité de la partie de corps. Appareil selon n'importe quelle des revendications 1, 7 ou 8, caractérisé en ce que la jointure à charnières est arrangée pour permettre au couvercle d'être mobile autour d'un axe substantiellement perpendiculaire à l'axe longitudinal de la partie de corps allongée.

12

10. Procédé consistant à afficher des informations sur un écran électronique prévu sur une partie de corps d'un appareil électronique, le dispositif comprenant une première pluralité de touches d'entrée de données prévues sur une surface de ladite surface de corps, un couvercle couplé de manière rabattable à la partie de corps et arrangé pour recouvrir ladite première pluralité de touches d'entrée de données dans une position fermée et ayant une seconde pluralité de touches d'entrée de données sur une surface interne de celui-là et une troisième pluralité de touches d'entrée de données sur une surface externe de celui-là, dans lequel l'écran est visible à la fois dans les positions ouverte et fermée du couvercle, caractérisé en ce que le procédé comprend l'affichage des informations sur l'écran avec une première orientation lorsque le couvercle est dans la position fermée et l'affichage des informations avec une seconde orientation, substantiellement selon des angles droits par rapport à ladite première orientation, lorsque le couvercle est dans la position ouverte.

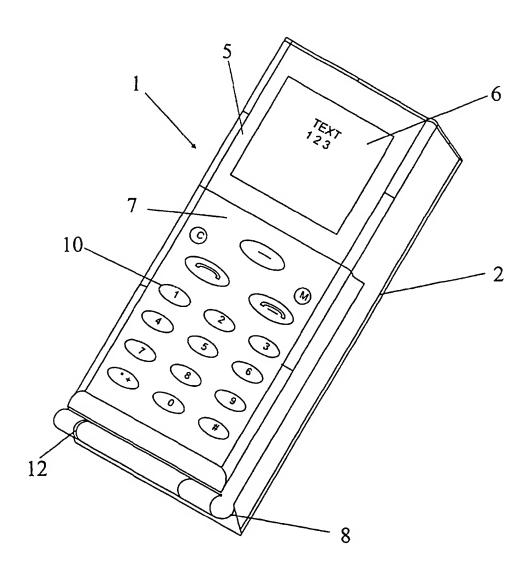


Figure 1



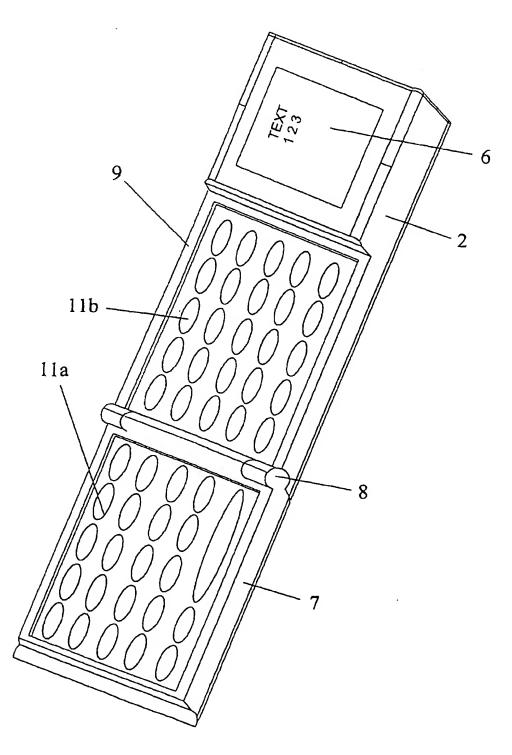
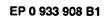


Figure 2



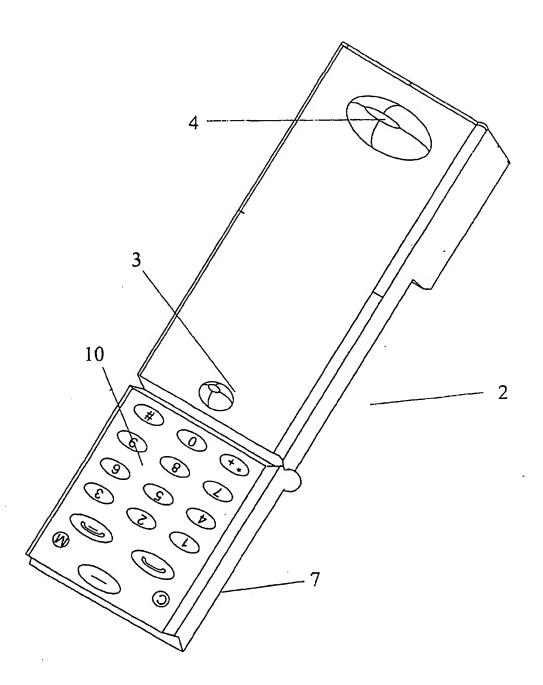


Figure 3

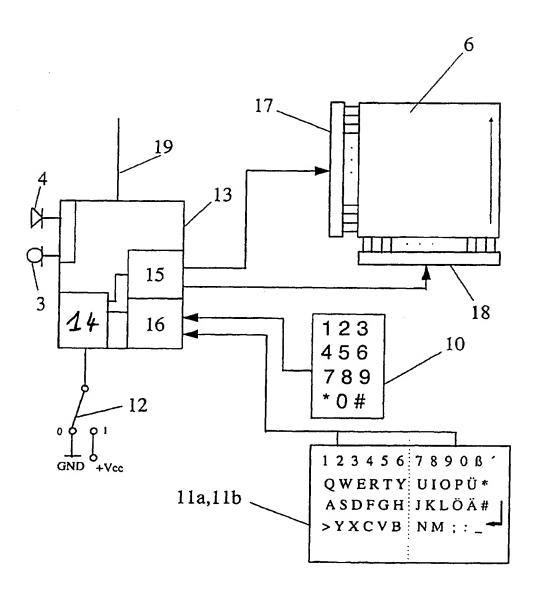


Figure 4

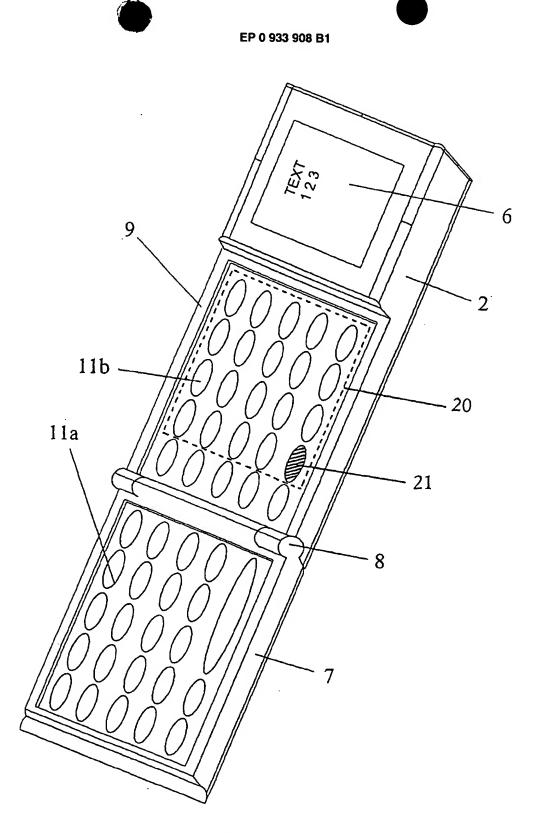


Figure 5